Halleck Launches Drive To Use Top Attorneys

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By Stuart Auerbach

A prominent attorney who has represented such clients as Bernard Goldfine was appointed without his knowledge yesterday to defend a man charged in the D.C. Branch of General Sessions Court with a liquor law violation.

Judge Charles W. Halleck said the appointment of Roger Robb marked the beginning of a drive to bring Washington's top lawyers into the Court of General Sessions, whose regular attorneys have been called "less than adequate' 'in a confidential report prepared by the D.C. Crime Commission and United Planning Organization researchers.

Robb, a partner in the Washington firm of Rbb, Porter, Kistler & Parkinson, was reported away on vacation until next Monday. Told of this, Halleck said he was sure someone in Robb's office could handle the case.

Halleck picked one of the top lawyers in Washington in Robb who is a member of the d.c. bar Association's Admissions and Grievance Committee and was selected in 1958 as Lawyer of the Year. His clients have included such well-known people as Goldfine, who was accused of giving a vicuna coat to Sherman Adams, President Eisenhower's top assistant.

Hallack said he is implementing a suggestion made by Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D-Md.) to the District of Columbia's Judicial Conference that Washington's best lawyers should visit the Court of General Sessions.

"I'm in agreement with sen. Tydings' viewpoint," Halleck said in an interview in his chambers. "I think that responsible members of the Bar should get the chance to see the court in action. At the same time, they can give adequate representation to the people who appear here."

Halleck's appointment of Rabb to defend Thadold Hoosin, who gave his address as 4500 Rhode Island ave. nw., came out of the blue. Hoosin appeared before Hallack charged with keeping whisky for sale without a license.

Hoosin said he wanted the judge to appoint a lawyer for him. Halleck found the courtroom empty of the regulars who practice in General Sessions and who depend on judicial appointments for many of their clients.

"You want me to appoint a lawyer and I'll do it for you," Halleck said. "I'll appoint Roger Rabb. I'm going to start appointing big-time lawyers."

The case was continued until Wednesday to give his clerk, Lawrence F. Ward, time to write Robb and inform him of the appointment. Hoosin was freed on $300 bond until Wednesday.

Halleck called for a list of lawyers who attended the Jucicial Conference two weeks ago and said, "I'm going to start by appointing them."